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3
ERNOR™
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VRMK

When his pack is attacked by the menacing Chic'tr, the Fenrae pup, Whitepaw, must leave the security of his home in search of help, encountering creatures he knows only through stories and legends...

Art & Story
Vicky Morgan-Keith & Patrick Keith

Cover Art
Vicky Morgan-Keith

Colors
Patrick Keith

Letters
Comicraft

Ernor Logo
Created with Bryce 3D

Patterings...

It's time for yet another installment of your favorite ramblings! So much has happened over the last two months we hardly have had time to revel in the fact that we are now comic book publishers and our work is being read and enjoyed all over the world.

We have been to two conventions within the same month, almost at opposite ends of the continent (Memphis is much further inland than Seattle). *Ernor* was reviewed and earned an overall score of A in the ***Comic Buyer's Guide***. All of the other publisher's and artists we have met at the cons have been incredibly encouraging to us. We are especially grateful for the support of **Mike and Carole Curtis** at **Shanda Fantasy Arts** who have promoted our work and inspired us to persevere. We have also met more fans than we can remember and have done tons of sketches. One of which graces the back cover of this very issue.

Dale Allen was kind enough to send a copy of the original artwork Vicky did for him at ConiFur which contained Blackmane's entire pack. This, so far is the only existing artwork that includes all of the Fenrae in one picture. Truly a one-of-a-kind. We liked the picture so much I just had to color it for the back cover. (Now you have one in color, too, Dale!)

Things are really rolling along here at the studio. Vicky and I are continually coming up with new ideas for future projects. The next installment of *Ernor* is being penciled as this issue goes to press. We have written a large portion of ***Ernor: Destiny of Rai*** and will begin scripting and production in early spring. Vicky has artwork appearing in ***Women in Fur*** from **Shanda Fantasy Arts** and there is a five-page Hask story by me that will be in an upcoming issue of *Wild Side* from **United Publications**.

There have been a variety of pronunciations of *Ernor* that have been both charming and entertaining. But, just to set the record straight, here is the official Ockton version: *Erh • nahr'* which contains way too many nuances that cannot be duplicated properly by the human throat. So, we at Mprints have provided a simple pronunciation guide as follows:

Ernor (air • nor) n. – The name the Ocktons call their world/setting in which these stories take place.
Fenrae (fin • ray) n. – Intelligent wolf-like creatures.
Ockton (ahk • ton) n. – Intelligent reptilian creatures. Not velociraptors. (Guess again.)
Hask (hask) n. – The Ockton who befriends Whitepaw.
Whitepaw (you're kidding, right?) n. – You've missed a lot, eh?
Chic'Tr (chick • tur) n. – What the Fenrae call the ant-creatures due to the clicking sound they make.
Mi'Kar (mee • kar) n. – Keep reading, you'll see...

Okay, I think I've wasted enough valuable paper real estate here, so, on with the story...

Cum air falbh feur gorm!
- P -

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First Printing

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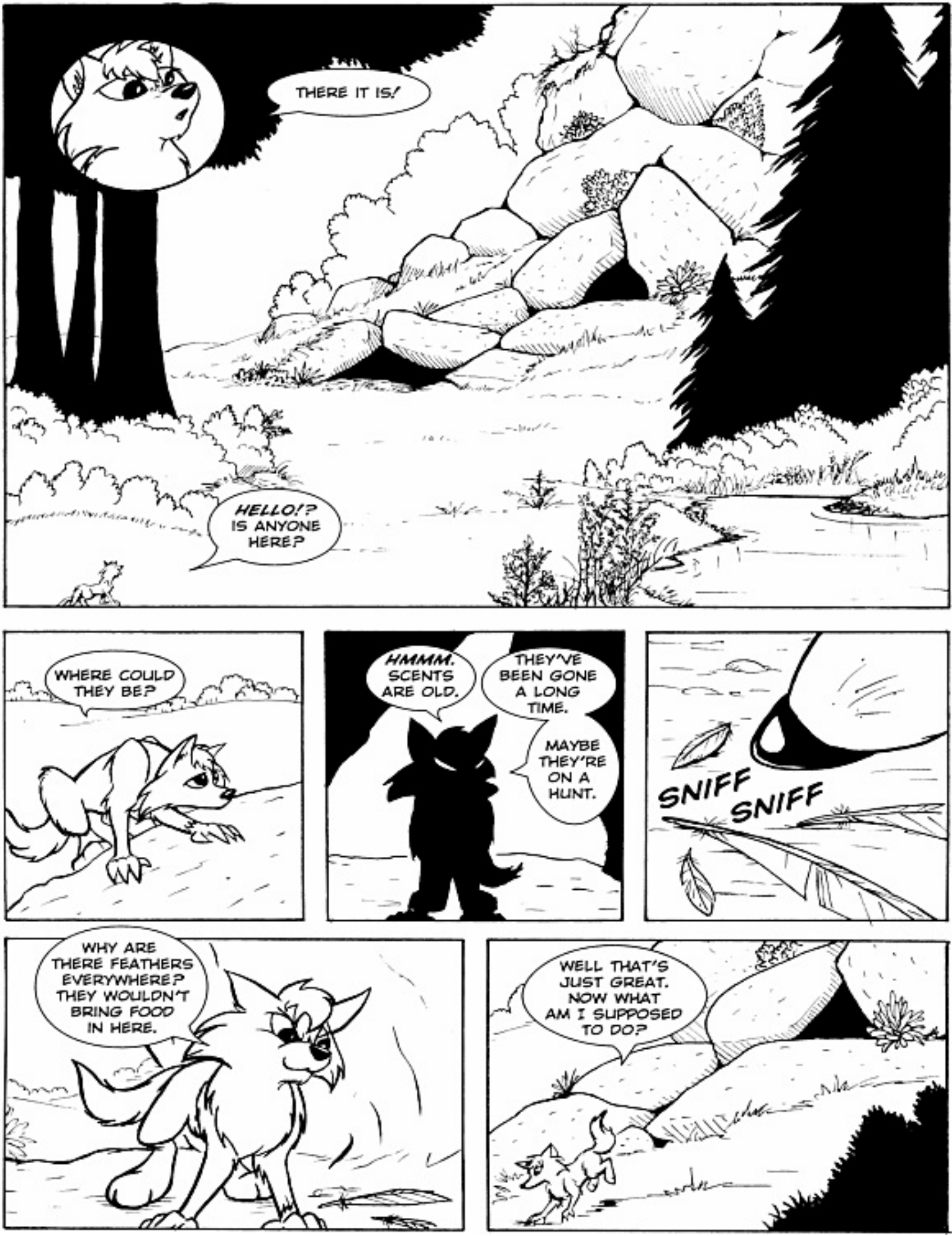
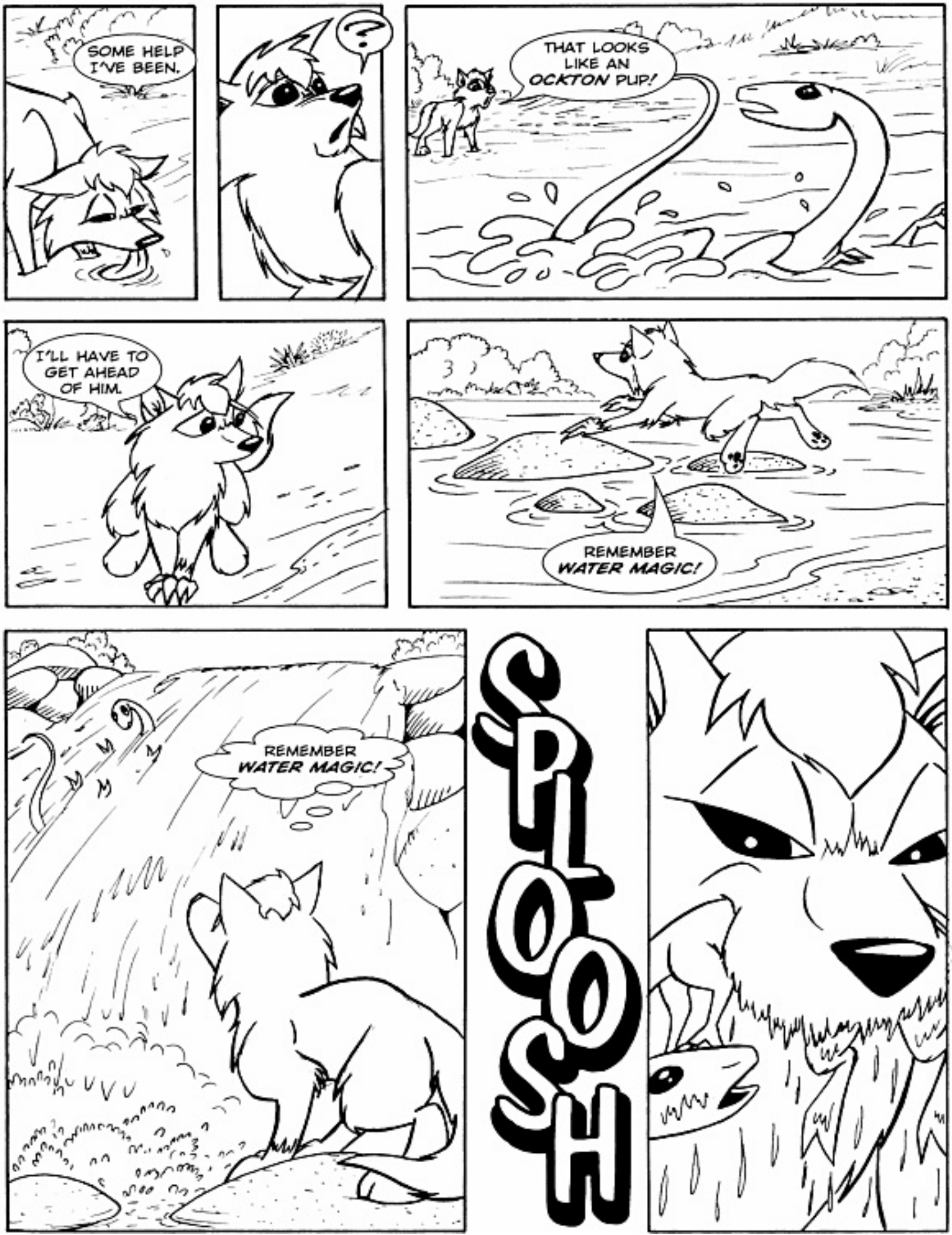
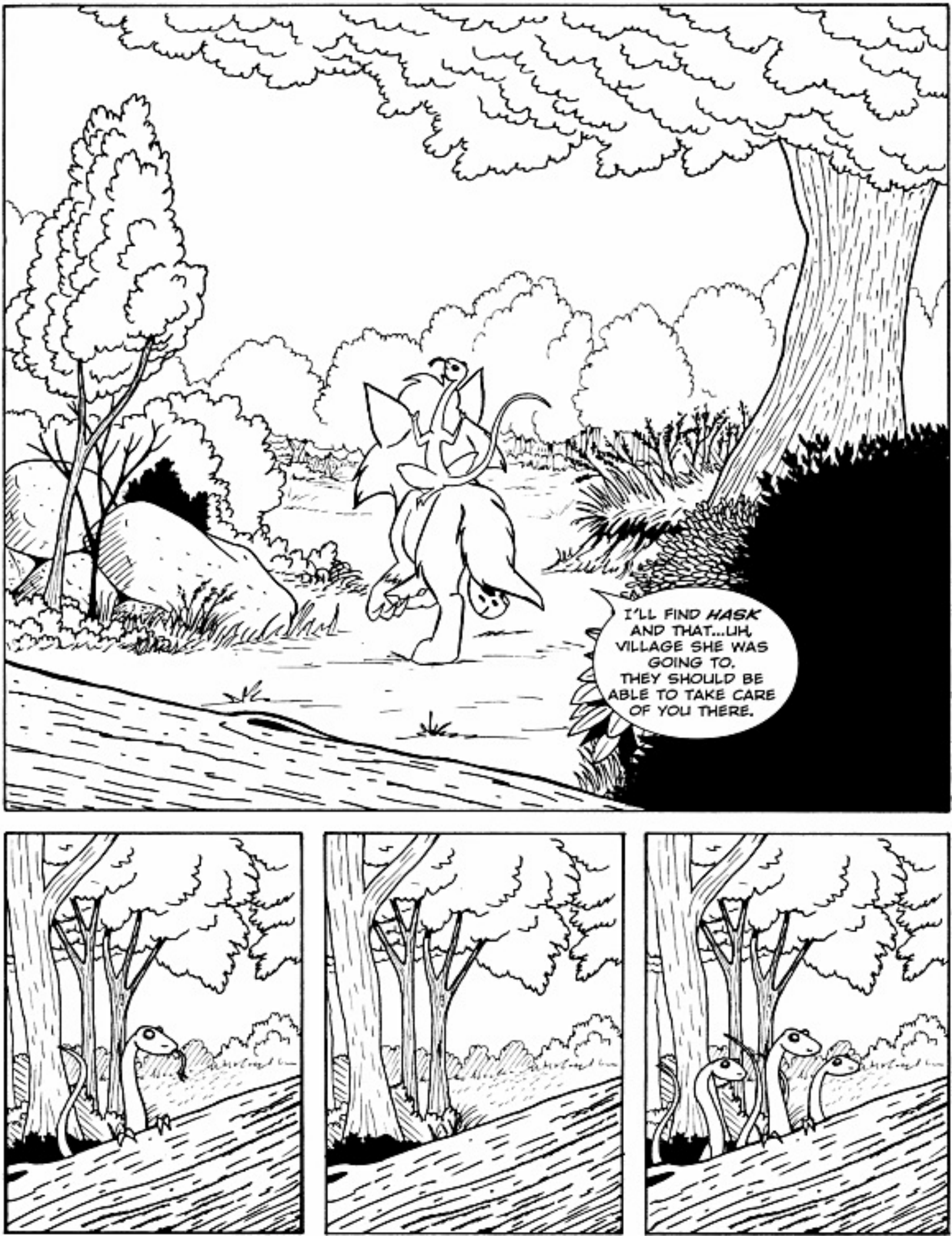
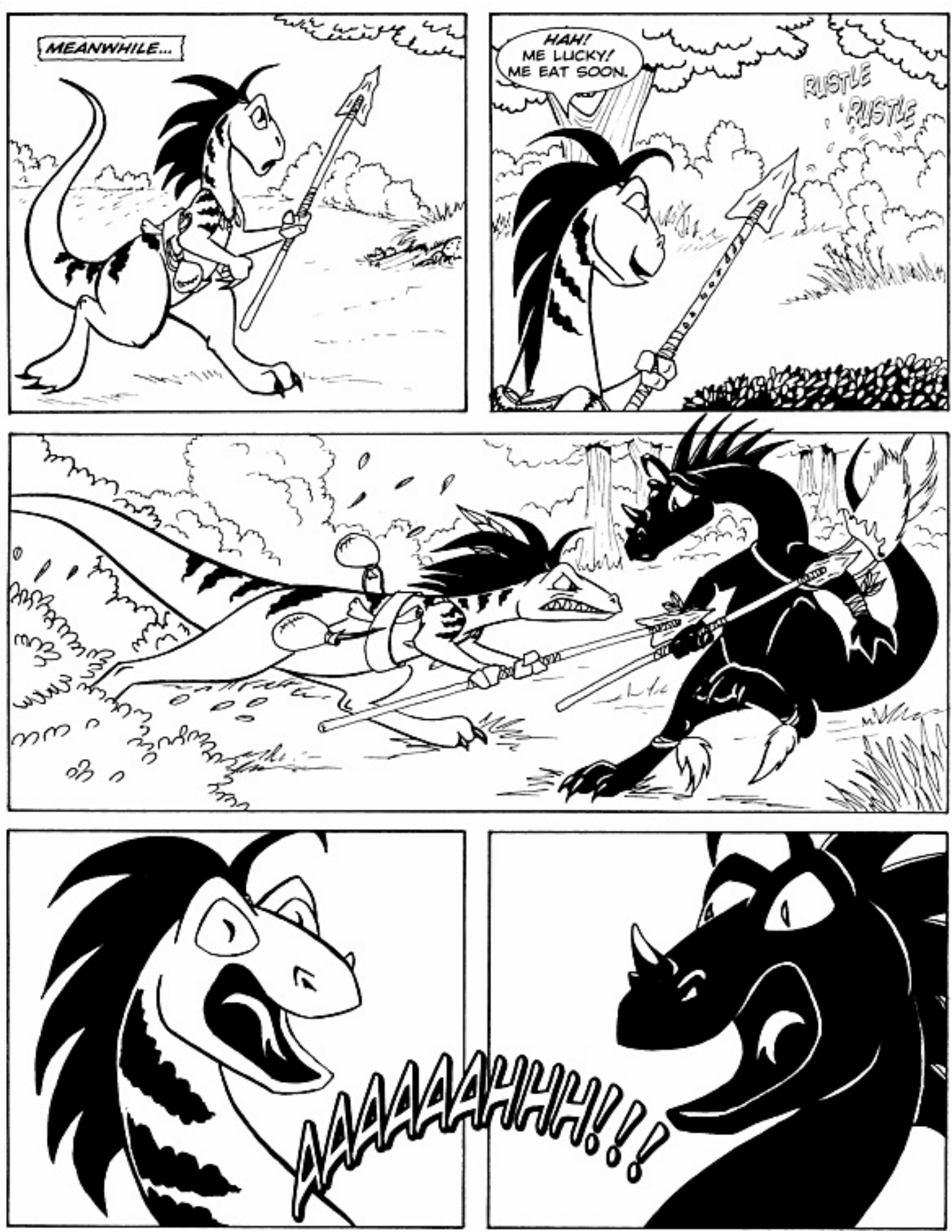
WHEW!
WITH ALL THESE SCENT MARKINGS I MUST BE GETTING CLOSE.
THEIR DEN SHOULD BE NEARBY.

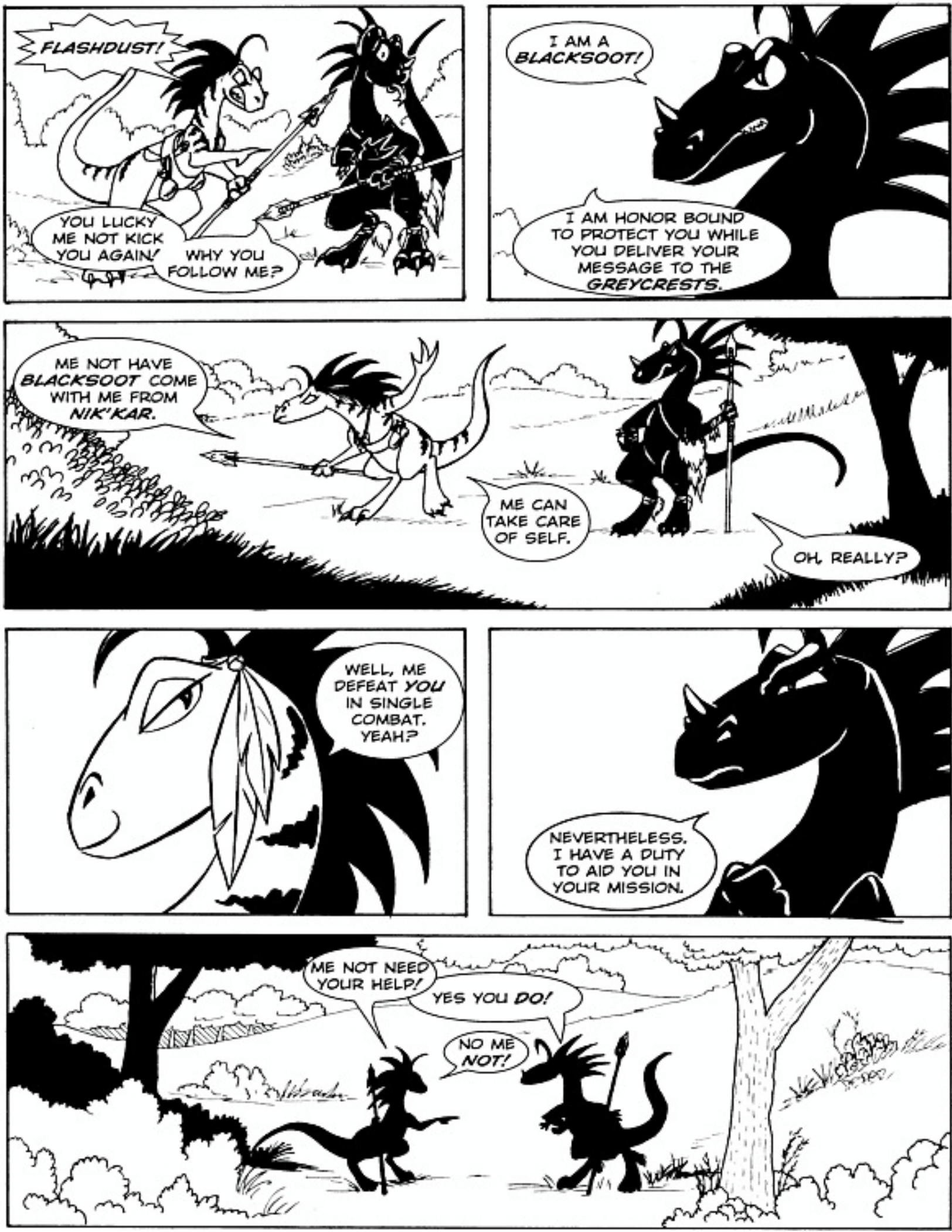

THERE IT IS!
HELLO!? IS ANYONE HERE?
WHERE COULD THEY BE?
HMMM. SCENTS ARE OLD.
THEY'VE BEEN GONE A LONG TIME.
MAYBE THEY'RE ON A HUNT.
SNIFF SNIFF
WHY ARE THERE FEATHERS EVERYWHERE? THEY WOULDN'T BRING FOOD IN HERE.
WELL THAT'S JUST GREAT. NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?


SOME HELP I'VE BEEN.
?
THAT LOOKS LIKE AN OCKTON PUP!
I'LL HAVE TO GET AHEAD OF HIM.
REMEMBER WATER MAGIC!
REMEMBER WATER MAGIC!
SPLOSH

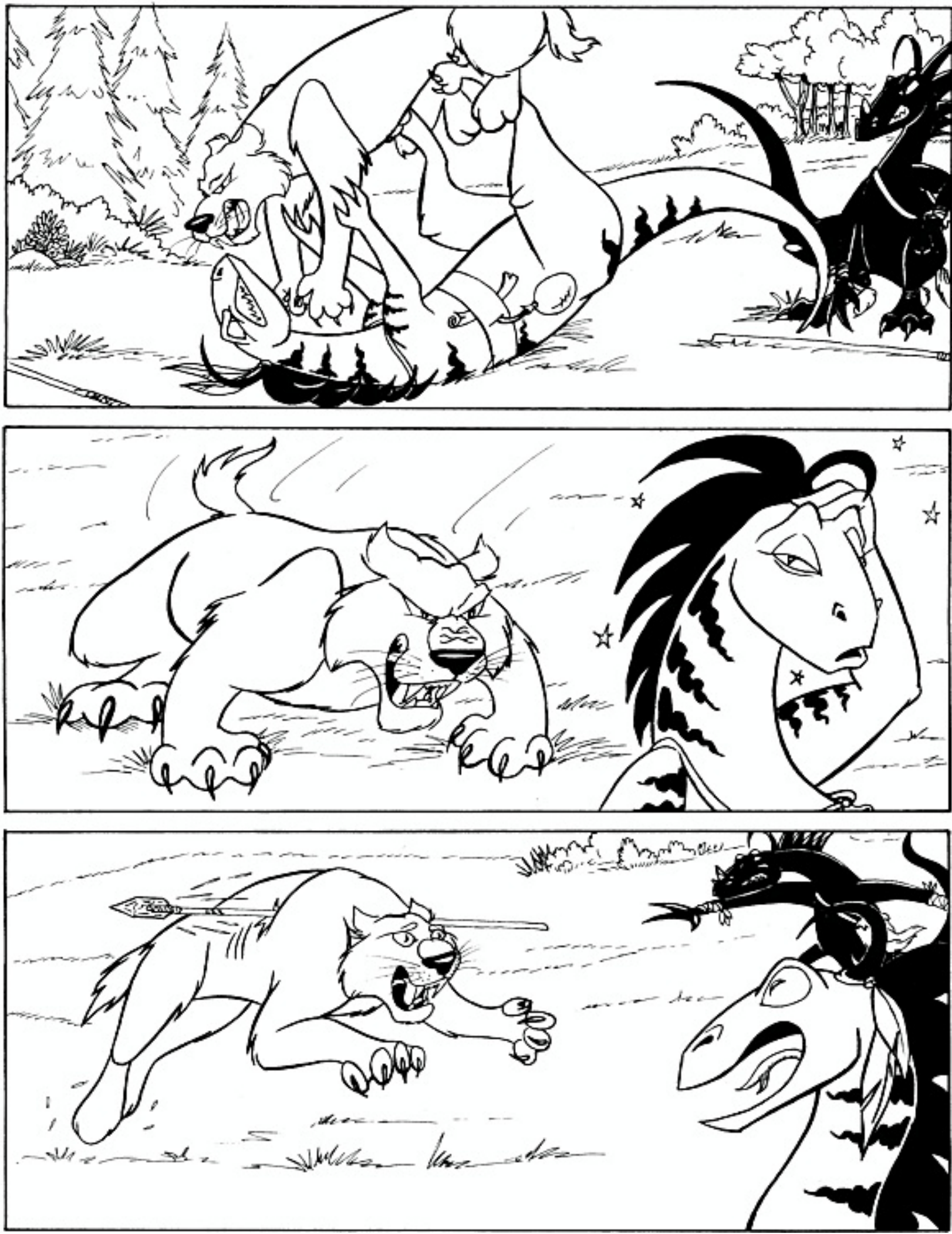
YOU ALRIGHT LITTLE GUY?
DONT WORRY, LITTLE FELLA, I WON'T HURT YOU.
CUTE LITTLE GUY. LOOKS LIKE *HASK*.


I'LL FIND *HASK* AND THAT...UH, VILLAGE SHE WAS GOING TO. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU THERE.


MEANWHILE...
HAH! ME LUCKY! ME EAT SOON.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
AAAAAAHHH!!!


FLASHDUST!
YOU LUCKY ME NOT KICK YOU AGAIN!
WHY YOU FOLLOW ME?
I AM A BLACKSOOT!
I AM HONOR BOUND TO PROTECT YOU WHILE YOU DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE TO THE GREYCRESTS.
ME NOT HAVE BLACKSOOT COME WITH ME FROM NIK'KAR.
ME CAN TAKE CARE OF SELF.
OH, REALLY?
WELL, ME DEFEAT YOU IN SINGLE COMBAT. YEAH?
NEVERTHELESS. I HAVE A DUTY TO AID YOU IN YOUR MISSION.
ME NOT NEED YOUR HELP!
YES YOU DO!
NO ME NOT!

RRROWWWRRRR!!!



HUH!?

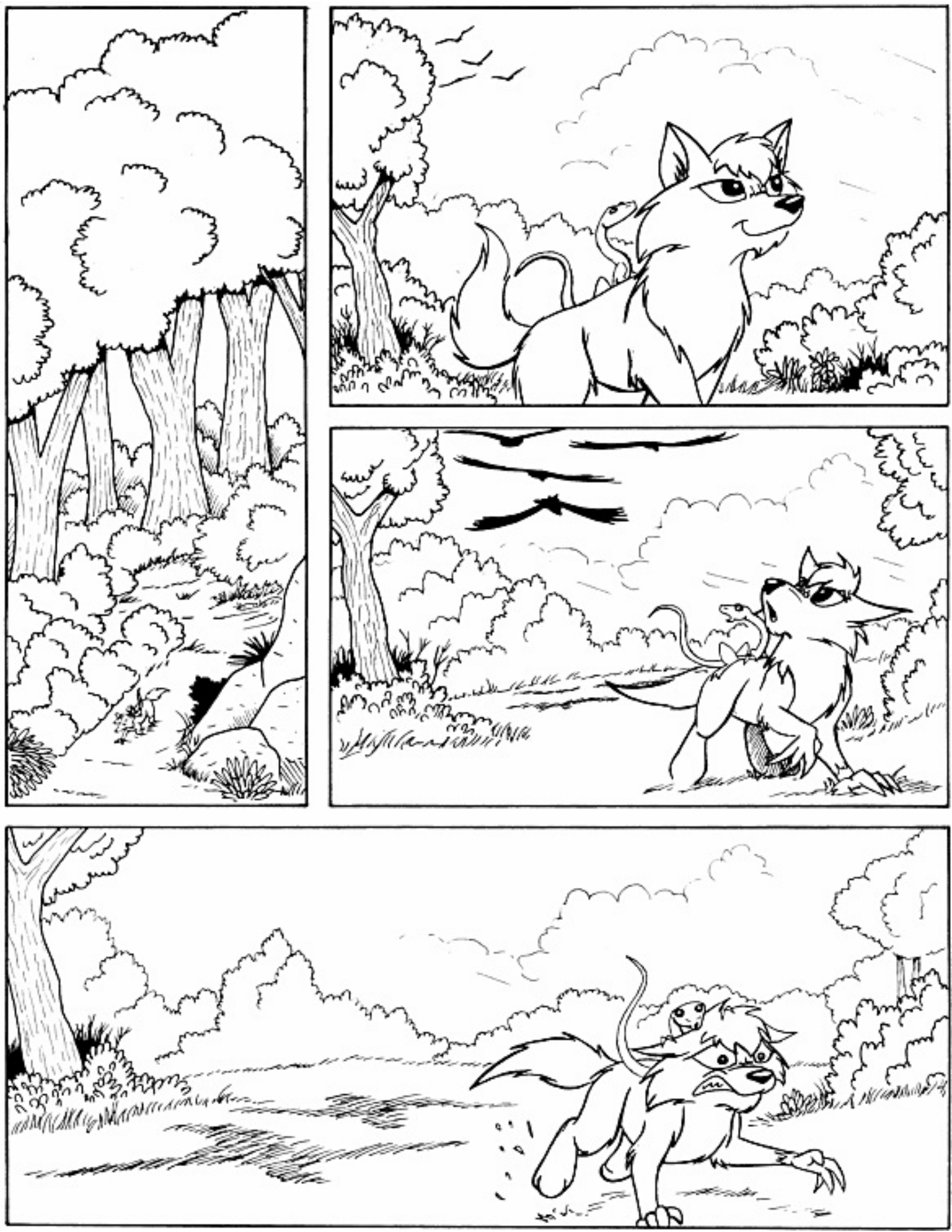
STUPID GROWL-ROWL! ME NOT GOOD TO EAT!
WAK
WAK
WAK

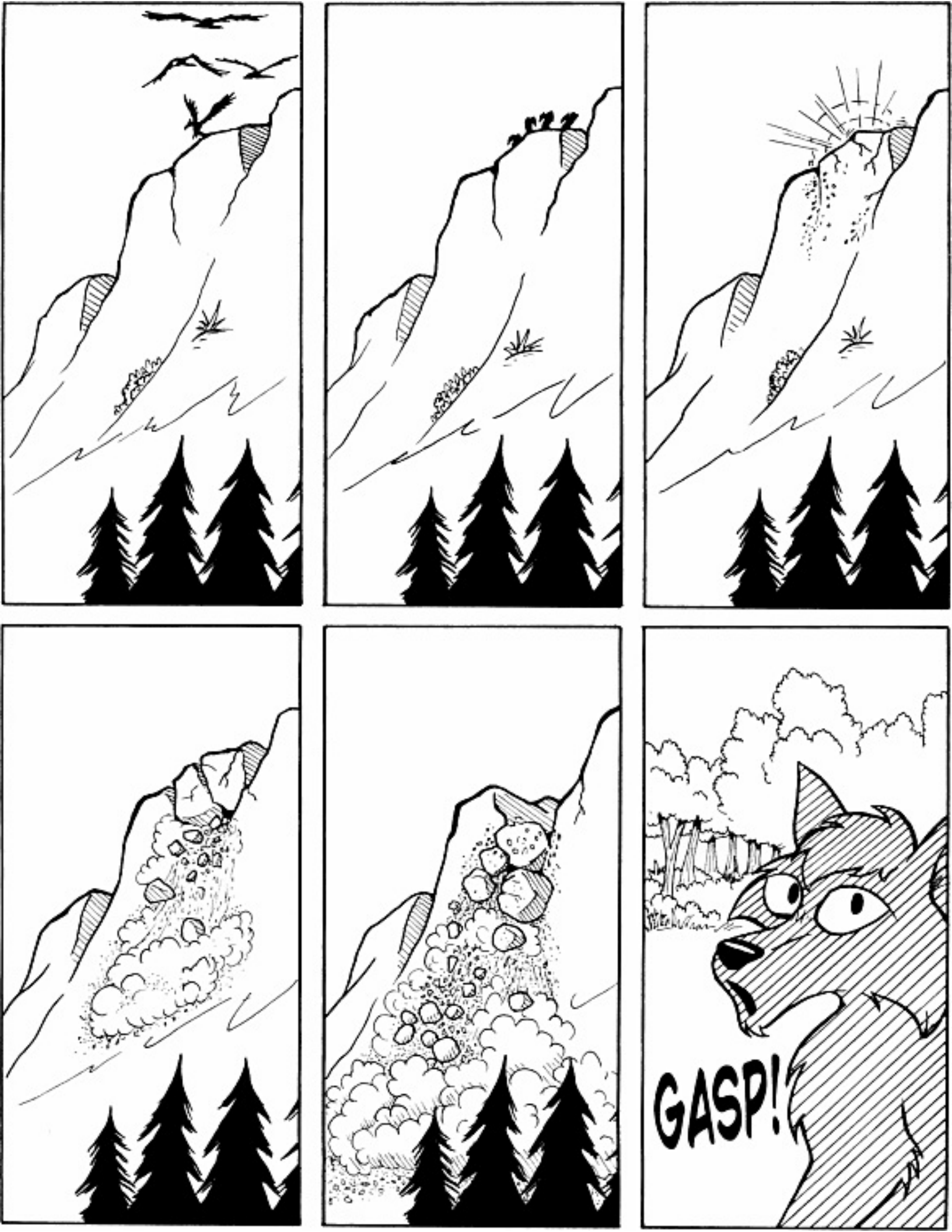
I CLAIM THIS PELT, HASK. TAKE CARE NOT TO DAMAGE IT.

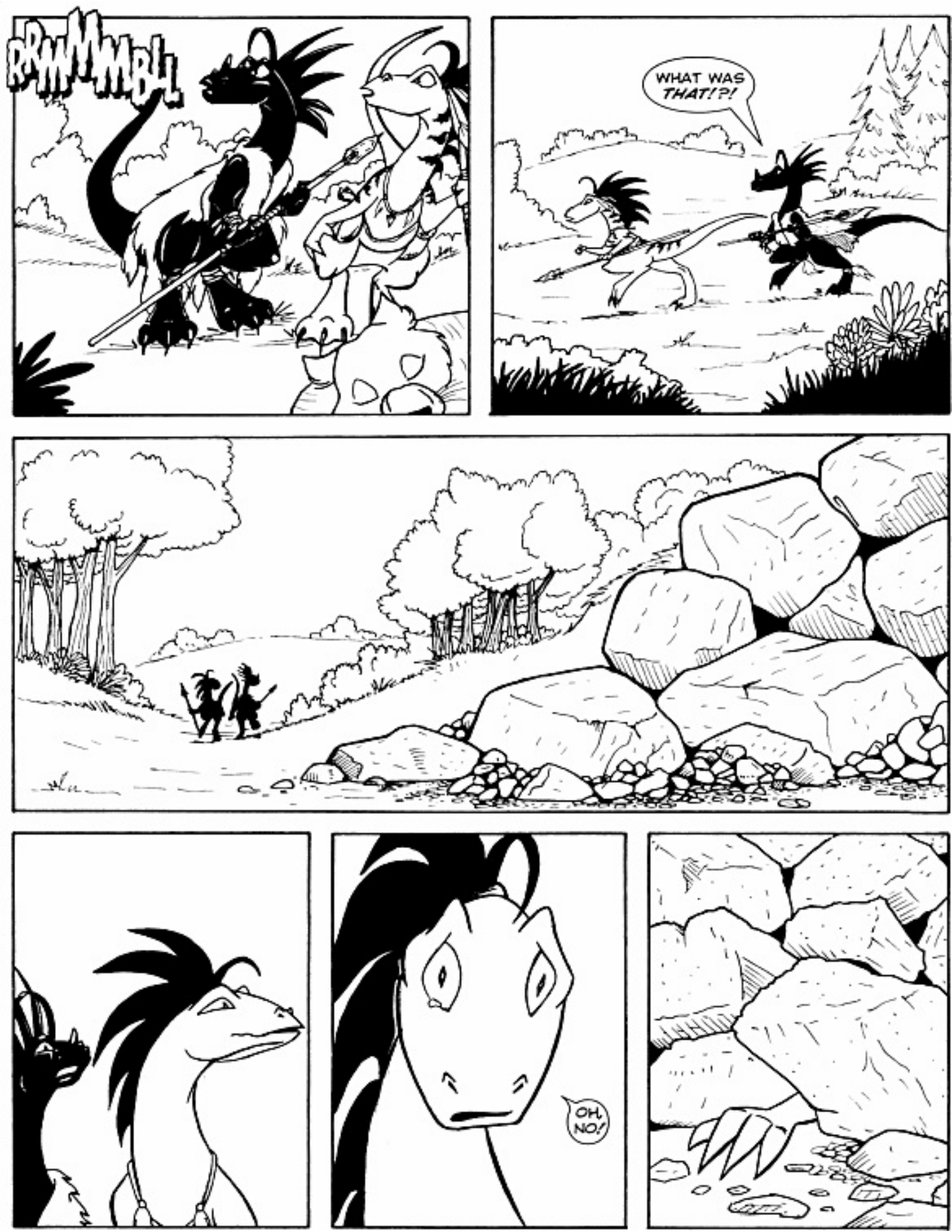
HSSSS!!

YEAH. YOU EARN PELT, FLASHDUST.
TAKE PELT AND ME THANKS.
BUT HURRY.

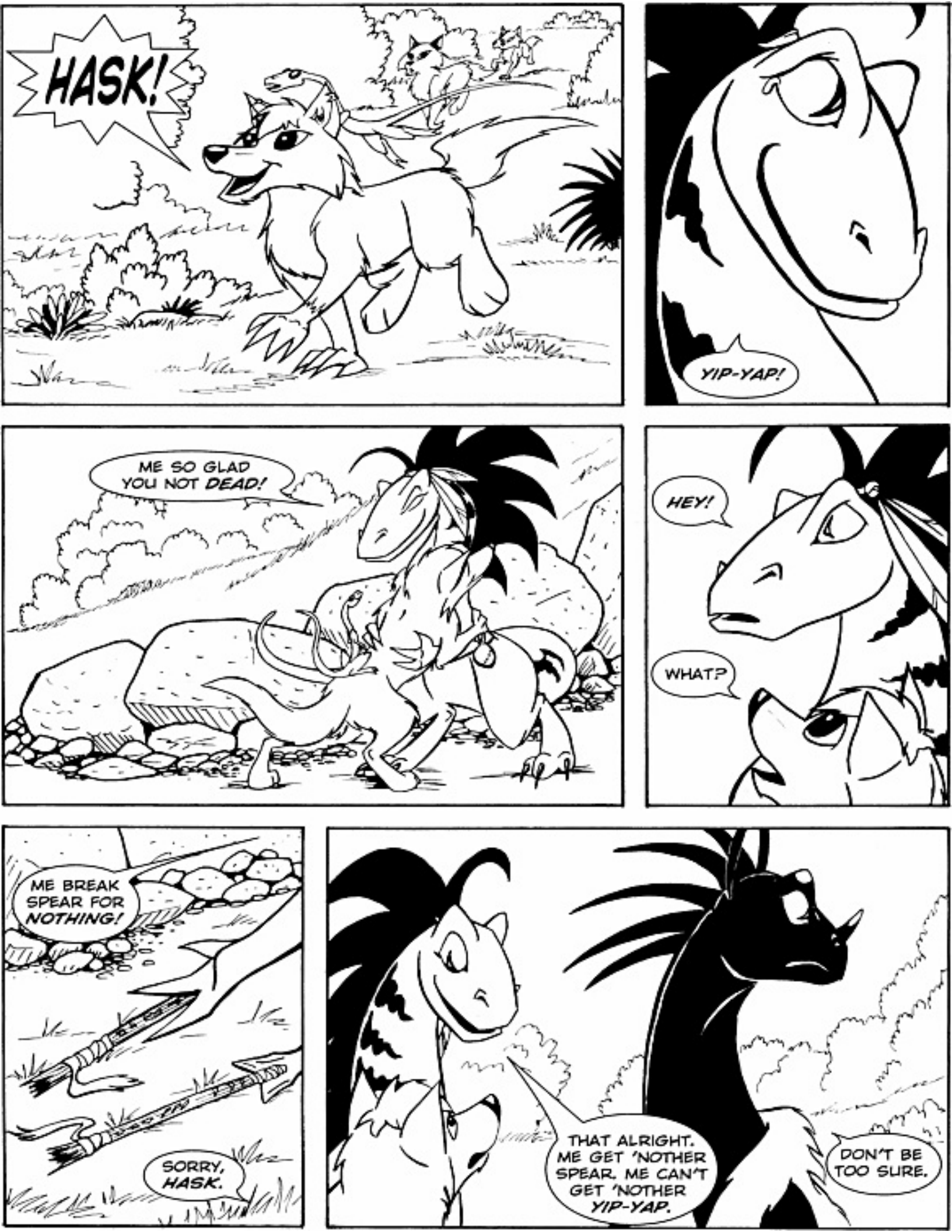
HURRY? WHAT FOR?
ME WANT US TO GET TO *H'SAK* BEFORE DARK.

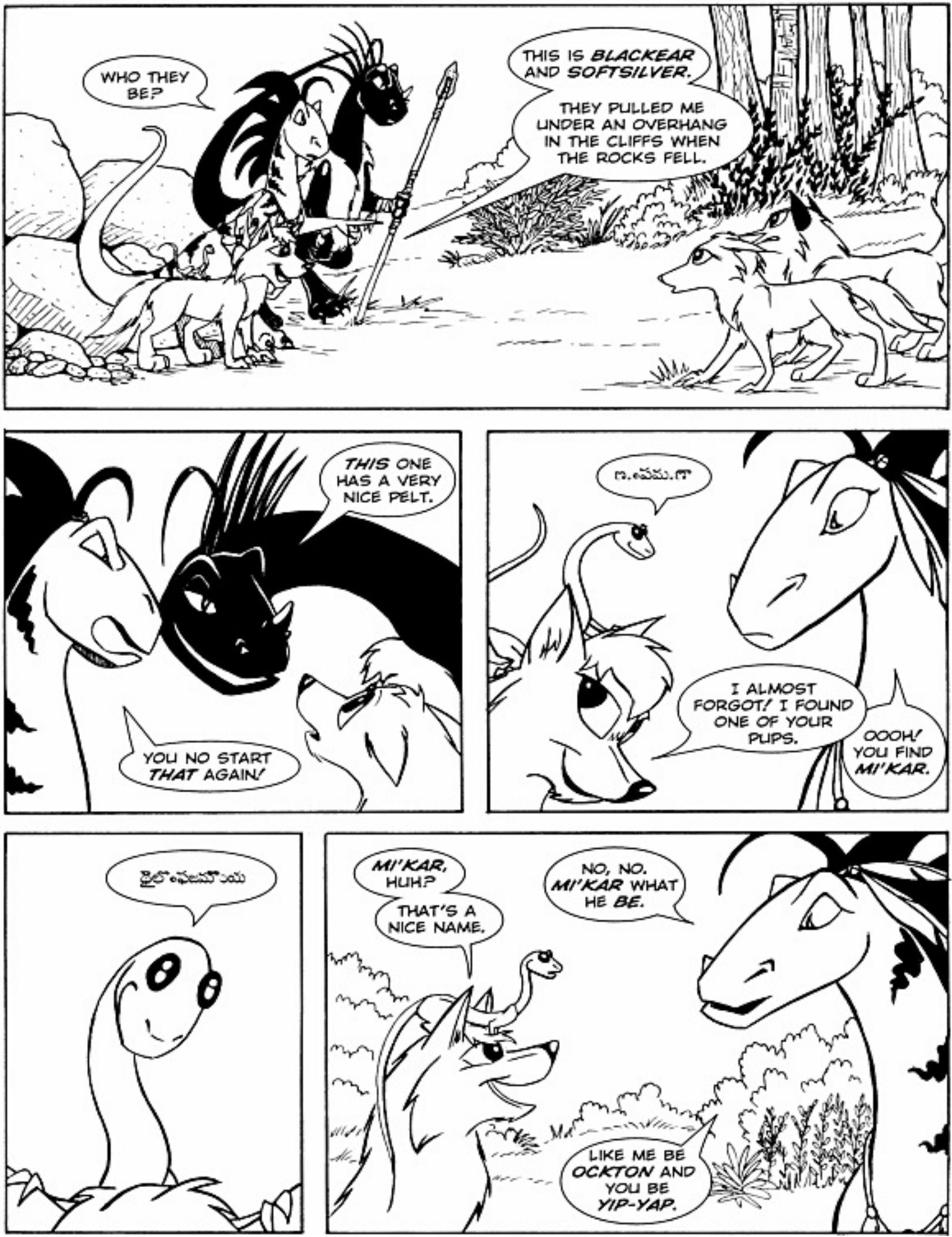



GASP!


BRMMMBL!
WHAT WAS THAT!?!
OH, NO!

HELP ME, FLASH!!!
WHAT FOR? IT'S JUST A STUPID YIP-YAP.
ME SAY BEFORE ME NO NEED YOUR HELP.
ME NEED YOUR HELP NOW.
SIGH
SNAP
POOR YIP-YAP. ME NOT FORGET YOU.


HASK!
YIP-YAP!
ME SO GLAD YOU NOT DEAD!
HEY!
WHAT?
ME BREAK SPEAR FOR NOTHING!
SORRY, HASK.
THAT ALRIGHT. ME GET 'NOTHER SPEAR. ME CAN'T GET 'NOTHER YIP-YAP.
DON'T BE TOO SURE.


WHO THEY BE?
THIS IS BLACKEAR AND SOFTSILVER.
THEY PULLED ME UNDER AN OVERHANG IN THE CLIFFS WHEN THE ROCKS FELL.
THIS ONE HAS A VERY NICE PELT.
YOU NO START THAT AGAIN!
I ALMOST FORGOT! I FOUND ONE OF YOUR PUPS.
OOOH! YOU FIND MI'KAR.
MI'KAR, HUH?
THAT'S A NICE NAME.
NO, NO. MI'KAR WHAT HE BE.
LIKE ME BE OCKTON AND YOU BE YIP-YAP.

మా అలసంకపు గూడు
YEAH?
దక్షి ఫల్లా బలియొలా పవ్వాప లకమొంధనెయు
REALLY?
పరగ లబొంమా రవుబమా
GASP!
EVIL WINGTHINGS! WE NEED GO NOW!
QUICKLY!

WHERE ARE WE GOING, WHITEPAW?
PROBABLY TO THE OCKTON DEN CALLED H'SAK.
IS IT NEARBY, HASK?
NOT FAR. WE GO QUICK, YEAH? IT BE GETTING DARK. WE BE SAFER THERE IF WINGTHINGS BE OUT AND ABOUT.
WHITEPAW, ARE YOU CRAZY? THESE LIZARD THINGS WILL EAT US FOR CERTAIN!
DON'T WORRY BLACKEAR! HASK IS MY FRIEND. NONE OF HER KIND WILL HARM US.
DON'T BE TOO SURE.
FORGET IT! WE'RE NOT GOING!
BLACKEAR, MAYBE WE SHOULD LISTEN TO HIM. NONE OF OUR OWN PACK IS LEFT.
I SAID- WE'RE NOT GOING!

LEAVE HER ALONE!!!
ME BELT POUCH FOR ANKLEWRAPS YIP-YAP DEFEATS OUTSIDER.
YOU'RE ON!
AHH

WHERE'S THE PATROL?
H'SAK NEED NO PATROL.
THIS A GREYCREST VILLAGE. SEE?
ULP!
GREETINGS, YIP-YAP.
TO BE CONTINUED...

Yip-Yaps

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Hello,

I just finished reading *Ernor* #2 after it was suggested to me by someone; WOW! I missed a very, very good comic! I can guess my copy is going to be circulated around to several others, at least, and I am going to recommend it to some friends of mine as well! I most defintely look forward to the next issue!

Eric Bernecker

Hey! Make 'em buy their own copies! (Well, it works for potato chip ads!)

Hellos,

I just finished reading BOTH Ernor #1 & #2 which I had purchased at Mephit FurMeet just a few days ago, and I would just like to say how great I think the comics are. So far I'm loving it, the characters, especially Whitepaw are drawn so well, and the storyline is really neat. I'm wanting to continue to buy these comics.

Slickfox
Damien Burns

We want you to also! Seriously, thanks for the support. Readers like you are what will ensure Whitepaw's story gets told.

Dear Pat & Vicky,

Great comic!!! And it just gets better. Issue 1 is super and 2 is even better! The art just keeps improving and I hope you have a long run. I definitely want to see more of the world of *Ernor* and more stories about these characters. Of course I really like the Ocktons or I wouldn't have nagged you guys so much a while back.

Which brings up a point. Thanks for the nice words in number two (only the second comic I've had my name mentioned in...now where did I leave my shades?), and you can bet I won't let you guys rest on your laurels. And I appreciate you letting me get my two cents in every so often on the art and stories. So far you've not let me down, but those "cliff-hangers" do tend to catch me off-guard (see #3). But don't stop! That's what makes it so much fun.

Lots of Luck and see you later,
James Wm. Sullivan

Wait 'til you see what issue 4 looks like!

Dear Vicky & Patrick,

My brother, Larry Knight, gave my son an autographed copy of Ernor #1 and he LOVED it! He is nine years old and enjoying reading comics but I just don't like some of the messages found in most comic books today. It is great to finally find a comic that I feel comfortable letting my children read!

I just wanted to say thank you for *Ernor*! Chris just LOVES to read the comics! He has read them over and over again and says he sees something new every time he reads them! He is already on pins and needles waiting for #3!

Ernor fans,
The Texas Smiths
David, Lorie, Chris, Tiff, Lizzie, Davey

Yowch! Tell him to get off the pin cushion 'cause #3 is here!

I'm truly pleased to hear you say that about the content. While I don't really object to all of the content of a lot of today's comics I do agree there needs to be more titles for younger readers that are quality stories. It is a bleak landscape out there in the comics world.

When we set out to make Ernor, Vicky and I agreed it should be suitable for all audiences. We are both BIG Disney fans and wanted to do our comic along those lines. We are however wanting to show what it's like in the animal world, so we will be showing things from time to time like what you may get on the Discovery channel with stalking prey and all. Our creatures aren't human and I think it's important to show them with their unique behaviors and cultures.

Dear Ernor crew,

I just finished the first issue of *Ernor* and I must say it's great! The art is excellent; it fits the plot and isn't too detailed so doesn't take anything away from the story.

Speaking of the plot, so far so good. I can't wait to see what Hask's species is like. What is he? He looks like a velociraptor. Will the series continue after Whitepaw's tale is told? Well, great job! See you next issue!

Jenny Bialecki
Onalaska, WI

I can see from your letter that there was a lot of interest stirred up about Hask. If you got a copy of issue #2, you've probably found out quite a bit more about her and the other Ocktons. They aren't quite velociraptors, but without giving too much away, the Ocktons are headed for big things in the future.

The series will wrap up with this story at issue #6. But never fear! There is an all out Ockton story headed your way. We're not sure how many issues that one will run, but there's lots of cool stuff in store for all our Ernor critters.

Dear Yip-yaps.

Howdy and Hiya! I just finished reading *Ernor* #2 after having read *Ernor* #1 about a month ago, and this story sure is coming along great! The Fenrae wolf-like people sure have it rough fighting those insectoid Chic'tr. I also like the details of the hunt which the tribe must do to survive - I'm not a hunter, but I would be if I was starving!

I collect a variety of different kinds of comic books but I knew I'd especially enjoy *Ernor* when I first saw the ads in *Previews*. The story really takes off when Whitepaw befriends the dinosaur/dragon-like Ockton Hask, and it's hilarious how *she(!!!)* insists on calling him Yip-yap instead of by his proper name. Of course I see the resmblance of the Ocktons to Native American tribes and the warrior mentality is gone into good detail. Great character interaction throughout both issues. Nice hug on the last page of issue 2 and then there's "danger" lurking. I'm looking forward to #3!

Stephen C. Emmons
Dr.Agon
Fort Collins, CO

Howdy & Hiya, too! Thanks for the dragon pics.

Glad you enjoyed the issues of Ernor! We were trying to put something out there that was scarcely done if not entirely original. We're happy it has been so well received.

You're pretty much right on track with your ideas about the Ocktons. The Native American theme is a little bit too far west, though, they're Celtic. But between the two cultures there are lots of similarities and that is one of the themes we will be exploring throughout all of the Ernor stories- cultural similarities. Since Ocktons haven't invented the loom yet I thought it was inappropriate for them to be running around in kilts.

They also aren't dinosaurs either (grin grin). So, if you stick with us, this story will wrap up around issue #6 and pick up with an all out Ockton story in Ernor: Destiny of Rai. They are definitely headed for great things.

Gruff!

I thought I'd write you and tell you how much I like *Ernor* and give a few comments...

It took a little while to become used to the unusual but lovely art style. It's simple but suits the comic very well. Great hunting scene to start with, and great jokes on Clutz...er...I mean Whitepaw's expense. Hunting a deer is obviously not that easy and there was the stickerthorn. More and more good scenes (including a close encounter of the bad-tasting kind with the worm) and a scaly cliffhanger.

Issue 2 is somewhat looking better. It might be a "furry" book but I like the Ocktons too. I wouldn't pull any argument with Hask, if only to avoid her awe-inspiring backpaw (she'd probably boot me into orbit). And the "cliff" keeps me hanging for #3.

There are nice facial expressions on the characters, too. I know from personal experience that it is sometimes difficult to illustrate expression on a face that has the barest minimum of muscles. You're doing a great job there. My comic distributor says that if *Ernor* continues to be published, it would provide a challenge to *Elfquest*. I disagree, *Elfquest* is not a challenge...

Now, don't slip on my track of slime, watch out for the stickerthorn and keep up the good work!

Lying in wait for future issues,
Lothar Renz
Stuttgart, Germany

Wow! Our comic book made it all the way to Germany! Thanks, Lothar. And thanks for the art.

Dear Mprints,

I just read *Ernor* #2 (missed #1) The raptor-like Ocktons are cool! I've liked dinosaurs since I was a little kid and yours have some good personalities (good expressions, too!). Hask's dialect is even better than Jar Jar Binks could ever be!

Stacey Van Gronigen
Canton, SD

The Ocktons have generated quite a bit of interest. On Jar Jar - You were the first person to mention the simialrity, but it had concerned us right after we saw* Episode I.** ***It's kind of funny how that all works.

When we first created Hask in '95 with the small gaming group we had at the time, Vicky was the one that came up with the "Me Tarzan - you Jane" type dialect. It was a big hit and it brought a certain charm to the character. What's funny about that is I was recently flipping through the* Art of Episode I *and noticed the dates on some of the early Jar Jar conceptual sketches were from '95. Both the film and our comic came out this year. But we haven't gotten any groans or allegations towards Hask from anybody, so maybe we're on the right track. It just goes to show simultaneous inspiration is a possibility, and that sticks us in the same creative pool with George Lucas. Not too bad.

The group makes its way into the highrocks but can they avoid the threat of the evil wingthings? This issue features a special wraparound cover and will be on sale the first week of the new millennium!

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